



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA NURSES TO BE HONORED FOR NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

DALLAS – VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS) will honor its nurses May 8 during National Nurses Week, May 6-12, with this year's theme, "Nurses: Strength, Commitment, Compassion."

The dedication and accomplishments of its 900 nursing personnel at facilities in Dallas, Bonham and Fort Worth will highlight the Excellence in Nursing Awards ceremony to recognize the efforts of nurses who work at all professional levels and in a variety of specialties. Excellence in Nursing winners are nominated by his/her peers, and are nominated based on demonstration of excellence in criteria such as nursing competency, career development, effectiveness in enhancing and improving health care outcomes, delivering outstanding care to veterans, and collaboration with health care colleagues.

Jawel Lemons, MS, FNP-C, RN, of DeSoto, will receive the Nursing Excellence award for RNs in expanded roles. She is recognized for her dedication and leadership in implementing several innovative programs at VANTHCS and VISN 17, which includes VA facilities in north, central and south Texas. Several of these programs include establishing a congestive heart failure clinic and a program focusing on strategies for adults with low literacy skills. Donna Sincere, BSN, RN, CCRN, of Flower Mound, will receive the nursing excellence award for the staff nurse category. She is recognized for her commitment and dedication in providing quality nursing care to veterans in the critical care setting, mentoring other staff, and role modeling. Sharon Patterson, LVN, of Mesquite will receive the nursing excellence award for the LVN category. She is recognized as a respected member of the health care team, highly motivated and self-directed in providing quality patient care outcomes. Nursing Assistant Lurlene Kinney

of Dallas, will receive the nursing excellence award for the Nursing Assistant category. She is self directed and strives to ensure that her patients are clean, comfortable and pain free. She is a team player and respected by her peers and co-workers.

VANTHCS has three named to this year's distinguished list of Great 100 Nurses. Jeffrey Scott Andrews, Sr., RN, BSN, of Mansfield, has been a nurse for 19 years. He says, "Being a nurse has its own rewards when you are able to see a patient go home in a better condition than when they first came into the hospital." Connie D. Means, MSN, RN, of Granbury, has 30 years as a nurse. Her most memorable experience as a nurse was as a member of the clinical team that opened the first inpatient (combat-related) post traumatic stress disorder program in the state of Texas (at Waco VA Medical Center). Stella Ude, RN, MHA, of Garland, says it is a wonderful feeling to be among the greatest nurses in Dallas/Fort Worth. "I am honored to be recognized by my peers as one of the best. I believe all nurses are angels and play an important role at the beginning of life, the end of life and everything in between." These Great 100 Nurses will be recognized May 15 at an evening ceremony at the Meyerson Symphony Center.

"Our nurses make a difference in veterans' lives every day," said Betty Bolin Brown, VANTHCS director. "Making a difference means demonstrating concern and compassion and encouraging our patients to participate in their health care rather than just receive services. It is answering questions – explaining technology, physiology and wellness. It is coordinating and facilitating care when patients are least capable of coping."

The VA health care system is the largest integrated health care system in the country, and VA nurses are leaders in their profession. They serve as administrators, educators and research investigators, as well as providers of direct care. Thousands of professional nurses in the United States have received clinical training from VA.

Brown added, "These outstanding members of our health care team demonstrate the skill and compassion that make VA health care second to none. They are leaders in our goal of providing quality health care to true heroes, our nation's veterans."